

Good News Daily

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Volume XVIII

August 12-18, 2018

Number 32

Sunday, August 12

Psalm 67 *May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us—so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.* (v.1 NIV)

Truly God has blessed us. We live in a free country where we can worship God without fear of our homes or businesses being destroyed or ourselves being thrown into jail or killed—threats many of our fellow Christians face daily in some places.

Our response should be to pray daily for persecuted believers throughout the world and contribute to their aid—never neglecting to praise God for the blessings He has given us.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, please protect our brother and sister Christians wherever they are. Keep them safe from harm.

Judges 11:1-11, 29-40; Psalm 66; 2 Corinthians 11:21b-31; Mark 4:35-41

Include in your prayers: Cindy Croushore, Carol Layton, Sandy, Sam, Mirabelle Wrist, Janie Greene, Joey Mitchell, Wally Bates, Kaye Bischoff, Stan and Shirley Connell, Erin McClain, Steve, Drew Fogg, Irene McAviney, Mrs. Jean Gantzer Ring, Mark Connell, Alice Hopkinson and family, Rocky Albrect, Kristen Robertson, Paul Schweizer, Pat Hegarty, Trish Hegarty, Tom Hegarty, Joe Hegarty, Patricia Malloy, Patricia Vreeland, Michael, Chuck, Bernie Oliver, Tegan, Marcia Pollard, Pat Davenport, Robert and Nancy Hart, Lynn Smith, Sebastian Terrell

Monday, August 13

John 3:1-21 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* (v.16 NKJV)

Nicodemus, a Pharisee, comes to Jesus at night to ask some important questions. Jesus tells him that he must be born of water and the Spirit. He also explains that God sent His Son into the world to save it.

It is always a thrill for me to see a sports fan holding up a sign at a sporting event that says John 3:16. I'm told it is the most quoted passage of Scripture, and is also known as "the gospel in a nutshell."

May we each share the gospel message with those in our world—how God loves you and wants you to have eternal life in Jesus. Truly, that is good news for everyone!

Prayer: Thank You, Father God, that You sent Jesus into our world to save us.

Judges 12:1-7; Psalm 89:1-18; Acts 5:12-26

Include in your prayers: Nico Clothier, Julia Montgomery, Sarah Lawler, Rob Steiner, Perry, Pam Heatley, Vi Matthews, Jimmy Gustafson, Carlos Salmán, Arnie Selna, Stephen Johnson, Jr. & Jennifer Corson, Jenny Bischoff, Annie Beebe, Adam, Alice, Guy Carpenter, Scott Breuer, Althea Lewis, Sally Loetell, Taylor/Block family, Benedette and Mark, Peter Mariades, Deborah Bowen, Mervin Williams and son Hunter, Amanda Smith, Bill Lively, Tom Johnson, Susie, Susan Miller, Dan Burg, Brooke Hartman, Todd Baron, Thesa Marclante, Tiffany

Tuesday, August 14

Acts 5:27-42 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men." (v.29 ESV)

Peter and the apostles have been arrested for preaching and teaching about Jesus. A Pharisee named Gamaliel, who was respected by all, spoke in their defense before the Council and convinced them to let the apostles go free. Then they went right back preaching and teaching about Jesus.

Too often these days, we want to be politically correct or not "hurt anyone's feelings" so we keep quiet about our faith. We need to have the courage of Peter and the apostles—like the Christians who drive around with the bumper sticker I love: Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven! That is truly good news. Prayer: Lord, help me be proud of my faith and to obey You rather than men.

Judges 13:1-15; Psalms 97, 99, 100; John 3:22-36

Include in your prayers: Karin Armbruster, Ricardo Acuña, Charlie Gasperino, Trey Harris, Joanna Aras, Marilyn Lyren, Margaret Nicholas, Kay Bailey, Debra Lasek and Noel Lasek, Ashley M. Muñoz, Dombrovski Family, Frank Lepore, Mustapick family, Gus West, Steve, Jan and Lois, Tom and Jan Bradley, Wendy Frezza, Jeff Breiler, Barry Horenstein, Vader and Annie, Patty Kidwell, Peter Pawlikowski, Janet Hall, Rose F., Bob and Barbara Thorne, Elaine S., Barbara Nelson

Wednesday, August 15

Psalms 109 For he stands at the right hand of the needy one, to save him from those who condemn his soul to death. (v.30)

While writing these devotions I've been watching several specials on the life of Princess Diana on the 20th anniversary of her death. She used the pain of her own life (her mother leaving the family when Diana was only 6 years old, and Diana's husband loving another woman) to lead a life of service to crippled children, the homeless, and AIDS patients. (Her sons and daughter-in-law continue her acts of charity today.)

May Jesus use our hands and hearts to reach out to the needy in our world. Most churches have programs that can make a real difference—like feeding the homeless, after-school programs for needy children, providing clothing to the poor, and job training for the unemployed. Get involved! Prayer: Dear Jesus, guide me where you want me to help the needy in my community.

Judges 13:15-24; Psalm 101; Acts 6:1-15; John 4:1-26

Include in your prayers: Leslie Hahn, Patty Hart, Richard and Margaret Downing, Lance Block, Valentine Houyvet, Rodney Bivens, Helen, Sue Drinkwater, Bernie Parker, Amy Astion, Gerard and Andrea & their families, Kelly McCarthy, Kim Jackson Mattraw and family, Tara Polk, Yvonne Reiner, Joe Bishop, Katie Kish, Seth and Sophia, Dennis Uthe, Lori Zenobia, Connie and Joe D'Alessandro, Dale Ann Lawler, Richie Keen, Olivia and Vincent, Phil Hart, O'Neal Bardin, III, Helen Caterer, Joy Skeffington

Thursday, August 16

John 4:27-42 *Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."* (v.39)

After Jesus asks the Samaritan woman for a drink of water and engages her in conversation, she returns to the village and tells the people to come and meet the man who "told me everything I ever did; can this be the Messiah?"

Even though she has a bad record for marriages and has to come to draw water at noon (when the other women come early in the morning), the people listen to her testimony and come to hear Jesus. They even ask him to stay longer.

We can give that same invitation to our neighbors, friends, and relatives: Come and meet Jesus at my church. He is the Messiah and that is truly good news!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, give me the courage of the Samaritan woman to invite others to meet you.

Judges 14:1-19; Psalm 105:1-22; Acts 6:15—7:16

Include in your prayers: Ruth Dans, Kristi Bronkema, Debbie Rannie, Lois Berning, Grace Wasko, Paul Gerstenberger, Shirley Hazen, Fran Labossiere, Pat Pinckney, Howard Smith, Patricia Herbert, Ryan Miller, Carina DeSimone, Susan Sakin, Timothy May, Rose Hawley, Bob Barnes, Eileen Kerwick, Alondrea and Derrick, Pat Cohen, Bob, Reno family, Nancy Scarpa, Laura Davis, Wade and Cheryl, Greg Greenwald, Rev. Fred Hart, Molly, Luke and Jonny, Savannah Vader, Bella and Sophie Barton, Carol and Bert French, Abigale French, The Kinard family, Laura, John Schmidt, Rosemary Gerstenberg, Adam Daily, Sean and Becky Talbot, Rebecca Hance

Friday, August 17

John 4:43-54 *So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live."* (vv.52-53)

The government official's little boy was dying, and he came to Jesus for help. Jesus said, "Your son will live" and the man believed and started home. His servants met him with the great good news.

At our Healing Service every Tuesday evening, we pray for healing that can be seen now and healing that we will receive later, by faith. There have been wonderful miracles of

healing of cancer, depression, ALS, family dysfunction, etc. (physical, spiritual, and mental healing). So, just like the father in today's reading, bring your needs to Jesus and know that he will help.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you heal today just like during your earthly ministry!

Judges 14:20—15:20; Psalm 102; Acts 7:17-29

Include in your prayers: George Dzama III, Keith Van Cleave, Phil Toren, Wendy Williams, Nan Hanaway, Dru Angst, Richard Dunstan, Cristian Clothier, Carley, Tamlyn, Steve Cella, Marie Buller, Diane's family, Sheila Dionne, Richie Parsons and Suzi James, Stacy, Madeline Hanlon, Muñoz family: Darcy, Roland, Josh, Gladys Muñoz, Barbara Davis, Baby Fagnano, Tim Gooley, Pat Clipp, Linda Roach, Patrick Muise, Frank LePore, Cameron, Wallace family, Pam Gorman, Riley and Padilla family, Raymond Longo, Dennis Shanahan, Elsie Southwick, Manny Gomer, Delores Osborne, Mary Ann Goodfield, Katie, Goobler family, Fred Best

Saturday, August 18

Psalm 108 *My heart is confident in you, O God; no wonder I can sing your praises with all my heart!* (v.1 NLT)

When one of us senior citizens looks back over his or her life, we marvel at all the answers to our prayers, rescues by our Heavenly Father, and the goodness and mercy He has sent our way. No family escapes every kind of pain or sorrow; we all have to lean on the Lord. But as we recount our blessings, we can definitely sing God's praises—building our trust in the Lord as we face an uncertain future. "My heart is confident in you, O God" and that is great good news!

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for all the times You have rescued and helped me.

Judges 16:1-14; Psalm 107:33-43; Acts 7:30-43; John 5:1-18

Include in your prayers: our country: for wisdom and guidance for our leaders and the leaders of all nations: for our armed forces, especially those now in danger: including: Harold Fitch IV, Sarah Fitch, Gregory Campbell, Nicholas Beswick, Brandon Baila, Dean Joseph Parker, Capt. Griffin Bird, Austin and Mary Willis, Lieutenant Ryan Morie, Houston, General John Shepherd, Russell Clark, Peniel Reid, and their families. Pray for our enemies; for peace, justice and reconciliation in all places where there is conflict, especially among the peoples of the Middle East. Please pray for Todd and Patsy McGregor and the people of Madagascar.

by Jacqueline Littleford

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

P. O. Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790

www.biblereading.org